Government (Scientific Departments). [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5167/02]

(vi) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 2001 (No. 10 of 2002) Union Government (Indirect Taxes - Customs). [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5168/02]

(vii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 2001 (No. 11 of 2002) Union Government (Indirect Taxes -Central Excise & Service Tax). [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5169/02]

(viii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 2001 (No. 12 of 2002). Union Government (Direct Taxes). [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5171/02]

(ix) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 2001 (No. 12A of 2002) Union Government (Direct Taxes) System Appraisals. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5172/02]

ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR

Cancellation of Sitting Slated for 16th March, 2002

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, before we go to the next item, with great respect, I would like to submit, through you, to the Leader of the House and also to the hon. Members that in the Business Advisory Committee, we had decided to sit on Saturday to complete the Legislative Business and other business, especially, the Private Members' Business, which was slated for today. To facilitate today's Legislative Business, the Private Members' Business slated for today was shifted to Saturday, the 16th March, 2002. But, in view of the fact that no Legislative Business has been slated for tomorrow, and we are likely to meet on next Saturday, that is, 23rd March, 2002, I would like to suggest, through you, to the hon. Leader of the House that if we agree to shift the Private Members' Business, slated for tomorrow, to any other working day in other words, if we allocate two-and-a-half hours to transact the Private

Members' Business, by sitting beyond the normal working hours of this House, then, we can have off tomorrow. The debate on the Motion of Thanks which is going on and the Prime Minister's reply to it could be accommodated according to the convenience of the Prime Minister on any of the two days, that is, either Monday or Tuesday. That would facilitate us to have off tomorrow. At a time when a large number of Members are retiring, and quite a few of them are engaged in the elections some of them have lost their interest in the House I would like to request, through you, the Government and my colleagues to give consent to this proposal.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I have no objection to this. I always accept what Pranabda says, be it the Business Advisory Committee, or, in the House. However, I would like to make three corrections. I hoped that by having session tomorrow, the retiring Members will have one more day to work. So, it was not against the retiring Members. On the contrary, Members who are not contesting elections would have one more day to speak in the House. Secondly, I do not want to be on the record that there is no Legislative Business. There is a lot of business.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: No, I meant that no business had been slated for tomorrow.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: That I appreciate. Thirdly, I would like to suggest that since we are likely to sit on 23rd March, the whole day can be treated as non-official day.

So, the whole thing can be taken up between 11.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. We have no objection, Sir. If the House so agrees, we can have a holiday tomorrow, and the Prime Minister's reply can be on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In view of the suggestions made in the House by Leaders of Parties/Groups, the sitting fixed for Saturday, the 16th March, 2002, stands cancelled and the Private Members' Business scheduled to be taken up on that day may be taken up on any other day in the week commencing Monday, the 18th March, 2002.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I take it that we are completing the discussion on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address today.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सभापति महोदय, एक बहुत ज्वलन्त प्रश्न है और पूरे देश की जिज्ञासा है। महोदय, सरकार ने यह तय किया है कि अयोध्या में राम जन्म भूमि न्यास के जरिए वह शिलाओं का दान लेगी। अब जिज्ञासा यह है कि इन शिलाओं का सरकार क्या करेगी, किस प्रकार से उनका उपयोग करेगी और दान लेने के पीछे इनका क्या मकसद है, सरकार कृपा कर के यह बताए? ...**(व्यवधान)**... क्या करेंगे, कहां रखी जाएंगी ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Proposal to amend industrial disputes Act and contract labour Act to ease the restrictions on retrenchment and closure of unviable unitshaving work force of less than 1000

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention and also the attention of the House to the statement made by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on 22nd February, 2002, after the Cabinet meeting. It was stated that the Cabinet had decided to change two basic labour laws, namely, the Industrial Disputes Act and the Contract Workers (Regulations and Abolition) Act. According to the proposal made by the Cabinet, the labour laws will be changed in a manner, empowering the employers to close down any factory which is employing a workforce of upto 1000 workers, at their whim, unilaterally, It will also empower all the employers to employ contract workers in permanent and perennial nature of jobs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the people who are connected with the labour movements know that if these two legislations are passed, all the facilities that have been given to the labour during the post-independence period will be withdrawn. Sir, I think, this will have broader ramifications. If these two legislations are passed, it will result in labour slavery. And, Sir, slavery will not be confined to the labour alone; it will be there all over the country, in various forms. Therefore, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no; I am raising it under the Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please read out. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir, it is a serious thing. I will take only two-three minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You read out. ...*(Interruptions)*...